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THE IRON SOLDIER

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Official Newsletter of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team

CAMP SHELBY, MS

A MESSAGE FROM IRON 6



COL (P) John L. Gronski
2/28 BCT Commander

My message is directed to all the soldiers and soldier's families of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 28th Infantry Division. First I'd like to point out that the 2 BCT is made up of soldiers from well over ten states and territories. Even with such a diverse group, the teamwork has been tremendous. This is a credit to the leadership at all levels and the professionalism of our soldiers.

For those new to this Brigade, I want to point out that the 2nd Brigade Combat is known as the Iron Brigade and our soldiers are known as Iron Soldiers. General Pershing bestowed the moniker "Men of Iron" upon the unit for its ferocious fighting during the Second Battle of the Marne in WWI. We have a great heritage and a storied history.

The training has been moving along at a fast pace and everyone is learning new tactics, techniques and procedures and learning how to operate the newest equipment. The hours have been long, but the soldiers are focused on the task at hand and confident in our capability.

The families back home are our secret weapon and a tremendous combat multiplier. The more support the families give our soldiers, the more focused our soldiers remain on their job. Every soldier has a tremendous responsibility embodied in the Warrior Ethos and with strong family support our soldiers will uphold the ethos of:


Mission First
Never Accept Defeat
Never Quit
Never Leave Behind a Fallen Comrade


Our Brigade continues to build combat power and gets stronger and stronger every day. The 2 BCT is a force to be reckoned with and I am very proud of the families and our Iron Soldiers.

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Congratulations to the following soldiers on their Promotions


Mathew Turvey, A TRP 1/167
Timothy Verbeek, A TRP 1/167


Michael Bender, HHC 2/28
Thomas Bender, HHC 2/28
Sharlette Butler HHC 2/28
Dawson Crookes, HHC 2/28
Michael Falls, HHC 2/28
Peter Gerovac, HHC 2/28
Stephen Kobily, HHC 2/28
Tabitha Lane, HHC 2/28
Justin Saner, A TRP 1/167
Jessica Stahl, HHC 2/28
Jason Usher, HHC 2/28


Elisa Hanson, 876th ENG


Shane T. Benyo, 1/109
Randall Branson, A TRP 1/167
Joseph Charney, HHC 2/28
Norbert Hock, HHC 2/28
James C. Klinger, 1/109
Charles Nagle, HHC 2/28
Zachary J. Strawn, 1/109
Jeremy White, A TRP 1/167


Alex Powers, HHC 2/28
Michael A. Amarante, 1/109
Stanley D. Rushefski, 1/109


Michael McKinney, A Co 3/103


Robert B. Stevens, A Co 3/103


William Laverty, 1/109

10 DAY BLOCK LEAVE

by Lt. Col. Regis A. Cardiff

All soldiers will receive 10 days of block leave prior to deploying into Theater. Block leave will occur after the soldier has completed all individual requirements in personnel readiness and training that qualify him/her to deploy. The 10 day block leave for most soldiers will occur between early June and mid June and will be determined by the following criteria: If the soldier is a member of the main body movement, Torch, Advon, Port Support Activity and Trail.

Soldiers should **Not Purchase** advance tickets until they receive the exact date of their 10 day block leave from their command. Once a soldier is given a set of dates for their block leave, those dates will not change in order to allow the soldier and his/her family to make the necessary plans.

It will be the responsibility of all soldiers to fund the transportation and travel costs associated with their block leave from Camp Shelby. Soldiers must have sufficient funds to ensure that they can return to Mobilization Center Shelby on the date their block leave ends, as the Military will not be responsible for transportation expenses.

To keep the information flow moving, we need to do our part and pass this information on to our family members, Family Support Groups and our Units back home.

TEAMWORK IN ACTION

by Lt. Christopher McLaud - 1/103rd Armor

When people talk about teamwork they associate it with the concept of family. In our case, the sixteen-man Second Platoon of Company C 1/103rd Armor contains two sets of brothers, the VanLoon and Tiffany brothers. The family concept is a little easier for the group to understand considering they have been family since the day they were born. Sergeant Sam VanLoon comments, "My brother and I have always been close, but I am really glad we can have this experience together instead of apart."

The one major difference between active Army and activated National Guard is that National Guard units are more times than not made up of family and close friends, whereas active Army soldiers are from all over the US and become friends as they serve together. There is no doubt that Company C is coming together as a family, with the help of these two bonds.

Company C 1/103rd Armor conducted its first field training event at "Al Jaffah", which is a small village created for units to conduct Military



Soldiers of Company C 1/103rd Armor, from left to right, Dave and Sam VanLoon and Fred and Andy Tiffany practice for the MOUT training site.
Photo By Lt. Christopher McLaud

Operations Urban Terrain Training (MOUT). This was a 3 day event that included a day of classes, a day of platoon exercises, and a day for a company exercise.

The training covered individual and collective tasks such as crowd control, assaulting and searching a building, handling of enemy prisoners of war, casualty evacuation, and reacting to

sniper fire. The last day the company conducted a cordon and search of the village. The mission was successful as the company captured both targeted insurgents without an injury to a soldier, civilian, or enemy. The only violence was the noise of a crowd of over 35 civilians chanting in Arabic, demonstrating against the U.S. soldiers in their village.

Lieutenant Christopher McLaud, of Towanda, PA, was quick to negotiate through the use of an interpreter with the Sheik of the village in order to calm the demonstrators and inform them of the company's mission and intentions.

The soldiers feel that hands on theater immersion training like this exercise better prepare for their mission in Iraq. Staff Sergeant Richard Woodbeck, of Towanda, PA, commented, "The MOUT training site really allowed us to grasp the classroom knowledge we've been receiving." It was a good experience for all the soldiers to be able to put these valuable lessons to use.

"Teamwork is essential; it gives the enemy other people to shoot at." ~Murphy's Laws of Combat

TAKE DOWN

by Spc. Kimberly A. Calvert - HHC, 2-28 BCT

Ever wonder what you would do if someone tried to take away your pistol or you had a weapon put into your back? Well, while at Mobilization Center Shelby, the soldiers have a series of mandatory training events in which they must partake in. One of the training events that is a requirement is Close Quarter Combat (CQC) which was designed to teach the soldiers what to do in those situations and a wide variety of other situations. The soldiers from HHC, 2BCT were out on the athletic field in mid February learning the Ninjutse battlefield techniques. The techniques that are being taught to the soldiers included a variety of weapons such as M16A2 rifles, knives,



Staff Sgt. Evan Melendez, of Pittsburgh, PA, takes down Master Sgt. Dennis W. Lindey, of Butler, PA, using a rope as a self defense weapon.
Photo by 1st Sgt. Paul Dunlap HHC, 2BCT

pistols, ropes, carabineers along with unarmed fighting and self-defense.

CQC was taught to the soldiers by a group of instructors from Arizona who are part of the Warrior School. The Warrior

School team offers all sorts of different types of training around the United States. CQC was developed to train the US Special Operations Forces (SOF) in 1987 by Jeffrey Prather. For additional information about the Warrior School, visit <http://www.warriorschool.com>.



Maj. Jeff Fetrow (right) of Mechanicsburg, Pa, applies a takedown technique to Maj. Fred Tady of Tarentum, PA, during Close Quarters Combat Training (CQC). Maj. Fetrow and Maj. Tady are members of the automation section S-6 of HHC 2/28th BCT.
Photo by Master Sgt. Dennis W. Lindey

228TH FSB welcome new commander

by Spc. Aaron Berger - HHD 228th FSB



Lt. Col. Glen T. Nissley, New Battalion Commander of the 228th Forward Support Battalion.
Photo By Spc. Aaron Berger

The 228th Forward Support Battalion welcomes our new Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Glenn T. Nissley. Lt. Col. Nissley comes to us from DISCOM in Pennsylvania where he was Chief of the Division Medical Operations Center (DMOC), since April of 2004. Earlier in his 24 year military career, Lt. Col. Nissley was the commander of

F - Company 728th MSB. He then moved on to be the Executive Officer of the battalion and eventually became the 728th MSB Battalion Commander for 3 1/2 years.

Lt. Col. Nissley was born in Lancaster, PA and has lived there his entire life. He graduated from Lancaster High School, and then went on to graduate from Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, MO, where he went on a soccer scholarship.

Lt. Col. Nissley has been a school teacher for 27 1/2 years in the Middletown School District. He teaches Health and Physical Education for the Middletown Middle School which consists of 6th, 7th and 8th grades. He coaches lacrosse for Hempfield High School. Lt. Col. Nissley has also coached such sports as football, soccer, and basketball. His hobbies include sports, such as college football, and college basketball. He is an avid reader, reading mostly history and

military books.

Family dedication is one of Lt. Col. Nissley's highest priorities. His wife, Doreen is also a teacher at Hempfield High School where she teaches 11th grade English. His son, Justin is 21 years old and is graduating from Virginia Tech this May. His daughter, Courtney, is a 16 year old junior at Hempfield High School.

Lt. Col. Nissley's philosophy of command for this mission is: "We must train in the most serious manner, so that the 228th FSB will be the best prepared for the riggers of the Iraqi theater operation, in order to protect each other and to bring us all home safely." He also stated that he is committed in every way to use any means necessary to ensure that every soldier stays in contact with their family and friends.

All of us from the 228th FSB wish LTC Nissley and his family well, and we look forward to his leadership and guidance throughout our deployment.

SAFETY CORNER

by Chief Warrant Officer 3 - Joseph Witmer 2-28 BCT Safety Officer—Joseph.witmer@us.army.mil

We have now started the hard task of preparing for the move to NTC. Our concentration is to get trained to do our jobs well and come home safely. We have started off good, but a trend is beginning to show

that we need to get a handle on. Gunners have been observed traveling above Nametag Defilade. This is very dangerous for several reasons. Gunners are the most exposed soldier in a convoy, but **MUST** make themselves the smallest target possible. Additionally, in the event of a vehicle accident, proper positioning will allow the gunner to drop into the vehicle faster and reduce the chance of serious injury or death. When engaging a target, the gunner should assume the appropriate firing position. All other times, nametag defilade should be enforced by all leaders.

Another very serious issue is the use of seatbelts. This subject splits my opinions between a combat officer and



Chief Warrant Officer
Joseph Witmer
Brigade Safety Officer

safety officer, especially with the most recent death of a soldier returning from training at Ft. Stewart. Just like the rest of you, a settlement must be met to meet the Brigade Commander's goal of "completing our mission superbly and returning everyone home safely". I have heard the stories of soldiers not wearing seatbelt in country and have watched the death rate and serious injury rate climb.

Recent analysis of the effectiveness of HMMWV seatbelt in OIF accidents show 97% of those soldiers who were wearing a seatbelt during an accident received only minor or no injuries according to the Combat Readiness Center, Ft Rucker, AL. This statistic alone should mandate the wearing of seatbelts for all soldiers.

The battle continues to be between fast evacuation from the vehicle and safety during a vehicle accident. Col Gronski, your Brigade commander, has put this into perspective for me and I wish to pass his wisdom on to you. The THREAT LEVEL will dictate the posture in the vehicle. Plainly when traveling in this training environment, the seatbelts will be worn at all times. When on the lanes under the controlled environment, the combat posture can be used based on the training direction from the OCs.

Every mission will include a risk assessment completed by the mission commander and will address seatbelt usage.

Lastly (for this article), Rollover Drills. 2-28 BCT has a mixture of numerous vehicle throughout the Brigade. The number one Class "A" accident leading to the deaths of our personnel in Iraq, are Vehicle accidents. In Iraq for FY04 to date, 86% of the accident deaths involved a vehicle rolling over. In country the roads and driving conditions are extremely hazardous. 65% of the Class "A" accidents in country are vehicle related. More than half of those involve a rollover. Rollover drills will be conducted regularly by ALL 2-28 BCT soldiers. At a minimum, patrol / convoy commanders will ensure drills are completed prior to leaving the FOB.

ROLLOVER DRILLS WILL SAVE LIVES.

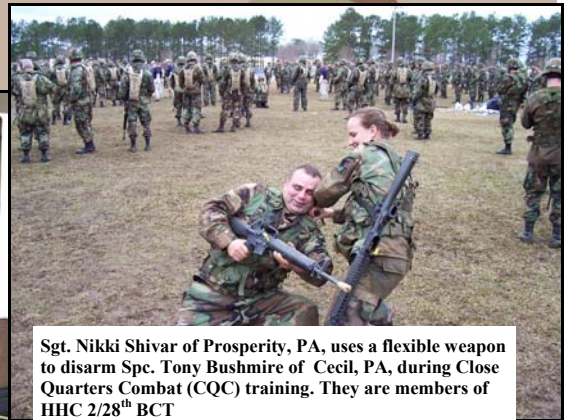
Thanks to all of you for supporting the 2-28 BCT Safety Program. As we have heard several times, "the more we sweat here, the less we bleed there". Keep up the great work.

IRON 99 - OUT

THEATER IMMERSION TRAINING



(RIGHT) Sgt. First Class Mark Wadman gives Primary Marksmanship Instruction (PMI) on the M2-50 Caliber Heavy Barrel Machine Gun to the Soldiers of 1/125th INF Co from Saginaw, Michigan also trained on the MK19 40 mm Grenade Machine Gun.
Photo by CPT Alfred A. Smith



Sgt. Nikki Shivar of Prosperity, PA, uses a flexible weapon to disarm Spc. Tony Bushmire of Cecil, PA, during Close Quarters Combat (CQC) training. They are members of HHC 2/28th BCT
Photo by 1st Sgt. Paul Dunlap HHC, 2BCT



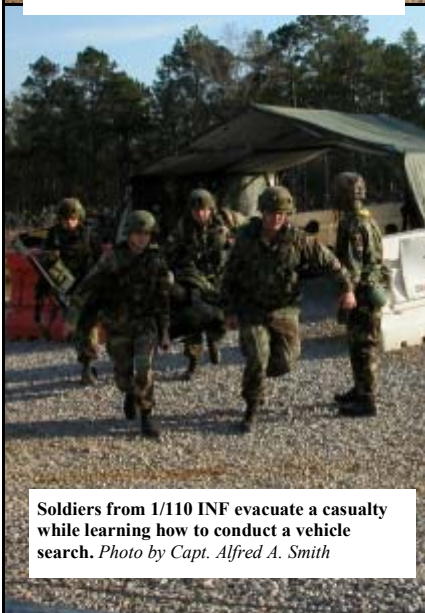
Soldier From the 228 FSB participate in Close Quarters Combat (CQC) training.
Photo by Capt. Alfred A. Smith



Col. John Gronski takes down Maj. Mike McLaughlin during Close Quarters Combat (CQC) training.
Photo by Master Sgt. Dennis W. Lindey



The Adjutant General Pennsylvania National Guard Maj. Gen. Jessica L. Wright congratulates the Vermont Soldiers of A 1-172nd Armor & A 3-172nd Infantry, for their successful Platoon Urban Operation, conducted in the mock Iraqi Village of Trebil. Photo by Capt. Alfred A. Smith



Soldiers from 1/110 INF evacuate a casualty while learning how to conduct a vehicle search. Photo by Capt. Alfred A. Smith



Soldiers from HHC 1/172 AR confront protestors during Entry Control Point training.
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rich Scaricaciottoli

end your pics to SFC Scary (Richard.Scaricaciottoli@us.army.mil) Include a brief description and who took the pic.



Tabitha Lane of Ulster, PA is promoted to the rank of Specialist.
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rich Scaricaciottoli



Soldiers of the 125th Infantry from Michigan get ready to fire on the M-16 range.
Photo by Capt. Alfred A. Smith



Learning to use the MK-19.
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Richard Scaricaciottoli



Sharlelle Butler of Philadelphia, PA, is promoted to the rank of Specialist. Spc. Butler is assigned to the 2/28 BCT MP Co.
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rich Scaricaciottoli



Family members and Soldiers gather at the HHC 2/28th farewell ceremony in Washington, PA.
Photo by Capt. Alfred A. Smith



A picture showing 28th Infantry Division soldiers in France during World War 1 on display at the Camp Shelby Armed Forces Museum.
Photo Courtesy of the Camp Shelby Armed Forces Museum

KEEPING IT REAL by SFC Peter Balfe - HHC, 1/110 INF



SFC Peter Balfe, a medic, is made up as a casualty during 91 W Course, a 21 day high intensity medical course.

Medics from the 1/110th Infantry Battalion out of Mt. Pleasant, PA are training on realistic injuries at Camp Shelby, MS. We have been put through a 21 day course designed to validate our combat medical skills. We trained on everything from basic anatomy to current injuries being treated in Iraq. Using

lessons learned on the battlefield, the last portion of this training is management of the three most serious but survivable life threats in Iraq: extremity bleeding, tension in chest cavities, and compromised airways. If we can teach every medic and soldier how to recognize these conditions, we will be able to save up to 90% of these troops. Soldiers may be gravely injured, but will not die from injuries that can be managed by quick and proper care under fire.

SSG Ross and SSG Landrum of 5th Army add the best touch. With the skill of trained make-up artists, they spend the days making some of us look like real casualties. This gives the soldier-medic the opportunity to manage injuries that we can see and feel. Hair gel, red food dye, rubber limbs and bags of fake blood provide an added touch to "injured" limbs as we work to clamp off the bleeding.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE by Staff Sgt. Jose Gonzalez

It finally came, the "Interceptor" Body Armor (IBA). I waited in line early morning just waiting to get my hands on it. I don't mind wearing anything the Army gives me that's going to protect my butt from fragmentations and bullets. When I signed for it I immediately put it together to see how it all fit.

The Interceptor comes in many parts. The first part is the Outer Tactical Vest (OTV) and that consists of the Outershell, Throat Protector, Yoke Assembly (neck and shoulder protector), Groin Protector, all with the flexible ballistics insert. Plus there is the Small Arms Protective Inserts (SAPI) which provides small arms protection to the vital organs in the upper torso. It took me all but 15 minutes to put it together.

We were told we have to start wearing them right away in order for us to get use to them and because we transformed part of Camp Shelby into a Forward Operating Base (FOB). Everywhere we go we must be in "Full Battle Rattle". That means donning your Kev-

lar helmet, LBV (load bearing vest), Protective mask and now your IBA. Getting in and out of the HUMMV is no easy chore these days with all that equipment on. The only way to get use to it is to wear it. We wear them to go to chow, to the PX and just to go down to the latrine to do our business. It's a little cumbersome but as I said before anything that's going to bring us home safe and sound is alright with me.

There are four levels of protection to the IBA. It ranges from high probability of 9mm/low probability fragmentation to high probability of 9mm/fragmentation/rifle rounds. I think I will keep my level at four while I am in Iraq. The IBA has saved many lives and serious injuries to US soldiers in Iraq. With the Up-Armored

HUMMV and now the IBA and other specialized equipment issued to us, I know we will have a better chance of coming home safe to our loved ones.



The "Interceptor" Body Armor issued to the 2 BCT troops.

A SOLDIER'S POINT OF VIEW

By Staff Sgt. Jose Gonzalez



SPC Matthew Gibson

Of Hershey PA
HHC 2/28 BCT

1. In a sentence, how will you describe your MOB unit HHC, 2BCT?

Gibson: *I have enjoyed an almost eerie run of good fortune when it comes to my duty assignments with the Army-HHC certainly continues the streak.*

2. Explain what you think about the training you already received at Camp Shelby?

Gibson: *The training here at MOB Center Shelby has been the most intense I have ever experienced in my five years of Army service. From Convoy Operations [firing live rounds from inside a moving vehicle to Close Quarters Combat (CQC)], I know that I am a better soldier having received such training.*

3. What was your most exciting time so far at Camp Shelby?

Gibson: *There have been many exciting times here; it is difficult to single out just one. During Convoy Operations I was selected as the TC or vehicle commander of the lead HMMWV which was a great experience. At the M16 range I qualified as EXPERT (39 out of 40) and still hold the highest score for HHC. And on the lighter side of things-I turned 26 on 02FEB05 and even though having known me less than 30 days, all of HHC made it a point to celebrate my day. Gifts came in the form of cards made from office supplies and even a few PowerAde's, it was a great birthday.*

4. Please explain your position and some of your duties?

Gibson: *I'm wearing quite a few hats these days, as I am a member of the Fire Effects Coordination Cell (FECC) that primarily deals with the clearance of artillery/mortar fires/counterfires. Coupled with that is Information Operations (IO) which focuses on intelligence aspects, civil and public affairs, reconnaissance, and electronic warfare capabilities to name a few. Basically it's all the stuff that was in the brochure when I signed up, I'm eager to go to NTC and Iraq for that matter to put all of this new training through its paces.*

5. How are the living conditions and food at Camp Shelby?

Gibson: *Army chow is the best! I live alone back home as I attend Penn State, so not having to microwave yet another something, let alone having to figure out what something to cook for just one, is a treat. Moreover, in the field or here in the TOC, who would want to miss an opportunity to dine with "Mr. E", the Army is getting pretty creative these days with their pre-packaged meals, now if they could only incorporate a little flavor we'd be all the way there. (Honestly, they're not that bad.)*



FROM THE CHAPLAIN



Maj. Peter Lawson
Brigade Chaplain

The BCT Unit Ministry Teams are committed to providing for the religious and spiritual needs of every soldier who wishes to exercise his or her religious expression. Presently there are 5 chaplains and 7 chaplain assistants working to provide ministry and pastoral support to the soldiers of the 2/28 BCT. By the time we are deployed, there will be 7 chaplains (1 Catholic, 1 Latter Day Saints, and 5 Protestant). We want to make it clear that the chaplains are committed to enabling the exercise of religion regardless of denomination or religious preference. Furthermore, chaplains are committed to accommodating the training schedule, which is to say that the chaplains will provide religious services regardless of location. Where the soldiers go, the chaplains will go.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, 20 MARCH

PALM SUNDAY OBSERVANCE: BLDG 2404 TIME: 0900

This is the day we commemorate Christ's entrance into the city of Jerusalem and the people cried, "Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." We will be distributing palm branches to remember this day.

THURSDAY, 24 MARCH

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION BLDG 2404 TIME: 1930

On this evening, we will be recalling the events of the Upper Room when Jesus gathered his disciples and broke bread with them saying, "Take, eat, this is my body broken for you." We will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and recall the betrayal and arrest of Jesus.

FRIDAY, 25 MARCH

GOOD FRIDAY OBSERVANCE BLDG 2404 TIME: 1200

This service recalls the last hours of Christ on the cross. We will be reading and reflecting on *THE SEVEN LAST SAYINGS OF JESUS* from the cross. The service will end with the extinguishing of the Christ Candle.

SUNDAY, 27 MARCH

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE: LOCATION: Walker Lake (off 21st Street, near Officer's Club) TIME: 0700

EASTER REGULAR SERVICE: LOCATION: 2404 TIME: 0900

EASTER CONTEMPORARY SERVICE: LOCATION 2404 TIME: 1900

RELIGIOUS SERVICES SCHEDULE

FRIDAY:

Jewish Services: 1930 at Temple B'Nai Israel in Hattiesburg .

SATURDAY:

Catholic Mass, bldg #804, at 1400

SUNDAY:

Protestant Inclusive, at bldg. #2404 at 0900. Also offered at different training locations by each battalion level chaplain.

Catholic Mass, bldg #804, at 1400

Latter Day Saints: On Post services available at bldg #804 at 1600.

Protestant Contemporary, bldg #2404, 1900.

Express Yourself

I would like to express myself thru my Daughter Rachael and her 4th grade class at Saint Clair Elementary School. In particular, I will give you the privilege of reading one of the Valentine's Day Cards that was mailed to me by one of Rachael's classmates, Damaris, Falera.

Dear Mr. Smith,

I hope you have a perfect Valentine's Day. I also hope you enjoy your trip to Iraq, and I hope you come home to your family as soon as you can. I know your daughter Rachael very well, she's a good person. You're probably the same, that's why you're fighting for the people you don't know. I like those kind of people, you can trust them. I wish you luck in Iraq. I go to St. Clair elementary. Well, have a great time.

Sincerely,
Damaris, Falera.



Capt. Alfred A. Smith displays the Valentine cards he received, from his daughter's 4th grade class.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Richard Scariaciotoli

The great thing about kids is that they see the world as black or white; in their world there is no gray. As adults we sometimes tend to think about things too much and sometimes it takes a 4th grader to show us how clear things really are. Thank you Rachael and thank you Damaris. Capt. Alfred A. Smith 2/28 BCT PAO (alfred.a.smith@us.army.mil)

Express yourself through our newsletter @ (Richard.Scaricaciottoli@us.army.mil)

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1st Lt. Jacques Smith

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1st Lt. James Belprez

HISTORY OF THE BRIGADE

THE BLOODY BUCKET

by Sgt. 1st Class Richard Scariaciotoli

Originally the 28th Infantry Division (I.D.) was known only as "The Keystone Division" but that would change in the winter of 1944.

Allied forces were racing through Europe and the 28th I.D. found itself pushing out of Belgium into Germany through the Hürtgen Forest. The 109th and 110th Infantry of our 2nd Brigade Combat Team can trace their lineage back to that first week in November, to a part of the forest known as the Kall Gorge.

Desperate to prevent the Allies from entering their homeland, the Germans put up a ferocious resistance. The carnage had become so bad that in an unbelievable act of humanity, differences were set aside and ground commanders from both sides decided to halt fighting so that medics could treat the thousands of wounded. Men who were engaged in combat only minutes before were now working side by side trying to save lives. Fighting resumed after only a few hours but the hasty cease fire is one of the extraordinary events of the war.

By the end of the battle the 28th I.D. took some 6,184 casualties. One story goes that a German soldier looked at the red Keystone

patch on one of the American soldiers and said it looked like "a bucket full of blood" Whether it was a German soldier or not there is no doubt that the battle of the Hürtgen Forest is when the patch of the 28th I.D. became known as the "Bloody Bucket."

In mid November the division was pulled back to reconstitute but found itself fighting again after only three weeks when the Germans launched a counteroffensive through the Ardennes Forest. Despite the brutal fighting they had just left, the 109th and 110th Infantry again fought with distinction in what

became known as "The Battle of The Bulge."

This is a very brief description of a very large battle. If you would like to know more there is a ton of information on the internet.



"A Time to Heal" by artist Don Stivers depicting the battle of the Hürtgen Forest.

Have a story or picture for the Iron Soldiers?



Contributions from all soldiers throughout the 2nd Brigade Combat Team are encouraged for consideration. Please enclose a detailed description of the people (name, rank and unit) and subject matter for each story and photo. Include your name, unit and contact information.

Contact your unit Public Affairs Rep located on the left side of this page or send an email to

richard.scariaciotoli@us.army.mil